

(c) the arrangements being made to stop the exodus caused by repeated Pak firing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The militancy in the State of Jammu & Kashmir aided by some external forces continues. The State Government are handling the situation in J&K with the assistance of the security forces which are operating under the overall coordination of a Unified Headquarters.

Firings from across the border by the Pakistani troops has been a regular phenomena. Our security forces give appropriate response to such firings taking due care that the incidents may remain localised and minimum casualties caused to our side.

The people living in the border areas, at times, have to face difficulties due to firings from across the border and activities of the militants. Government takes necessary steps to ameliorate their condition to the extent possible.

[English]

Chinese Refusal to HAL

722. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Financial Express' dated June 30, 1997 under the caption "HAL refused berth in China's Asian Express";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter; and

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to take up the matter with appropriate Authorities abroad to protect and promote the interest of HAL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) The "Asian Express" programme, as reported in the newsitem published in the 'Financial Express' dated June 30, 1997, is a 100 seater aircraft project of Chinese Government. Separately, as part of its diversification plan, M/s. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is looking for partners for co-production/co-development of 100 seater aircraft. In this regard, HAL has also approached the Aviation Industries of China (AVIC). However, no response has been received from them.

Digital Flight Control Computer for LCA

723. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Electronics Limited has some working arrangement with Lockheed Martin of US for digital flight control computer for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA);

(b) whether the Government of U.S. is trying to put hurdles in the said arrangement; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and steps taken by the Government to tackle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Performance of Sea Eagle Missiles

724. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :
SHRI SURESH PRABHU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of the sea eagle missiles purchased for the Navy has been found to be substandard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made to fix responsibility for purchasing sub-standard missiles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) The Sea Eagle Missiles were acquired by the Navy in 1987-88 from British Aerospace, U.K. Prior to induction from UK, the capabilities of the Sea Eagle Missiles (SEMs) were fully demonstrated during live firings from Sea Harrier Aircraft and, therefore, it is not correct to term the missiles as sub-standard. Recently in April, 1997, Navy carried out two practice firings and in both the cases some malfunctionings were noticed. Immediate measures have been initiated to identify the specific nature of the problem so as to rectify them and ensure the serviceability of the remaining missiles in stock.